blackmail against member countries of the UN. The Conference, therefore, demanded the immediate lifting of the sanctions and boycotts and the payment of compensation to all those who suffered because of these illegal arbitrary measures.

Total Deposit in EPF

4935. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total deposit of provident fund till today;

(b) the provident fund arrear pending on different employees till 31st December 1999;

(c) the pattern of investment of provident fund; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have unilaterally reduced the interest on provident fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As on 31.3.99 progressive total amount of P.F. invested was Rs. 70,000.99 crore.

(b) Rs. 1129.94 crore.

(c) The EPF contributions not required for immediate disbursement are invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, 40% of PF money is invested in Government securities, 40% in public financial institutions and the remaining 20% has been left at discretion of the Board of Trustees for investment either in Government securities or in public financial institutions. The Board of Trustees subject to their assessment of risk return prospects have also been given an option to make investment upto 10% out of 20% in private sector bonds/securities having investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

(d) No, Sir.